

Some facts and figures

- Founded June 2011.
- Official launch at the LGBT History Month pre-launch at The Oval, November 2011.
- Thousandth article September 2012.
- Selected for archiving by the British Library's UK Web Archive.

Current statistics

- Over 1,290 articles (pages).
- Over 500,000 page views (averaging over 400 views per page).
- Over 10,000 page edits.
- Over 160 illustrations (plus many more from Wikimedia Commons).

But...

- Many of our pages are just “stubs” needing to be expanded into proper articles.
- We know of nearly 2,000 subjects that haven't as yet got an article at all – and there must be many more waiting to be discovered.

How you can help

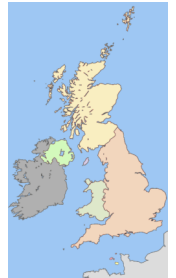
If you'd like to help, e-mail us at jonathan@lgbthistoryuk.org or ross@foxeearth.net. We'll get you signed up and you can start straight away, improving our existing articles or adding your own.



About the LGBT History Project

We're recording the memories and history of lesbian, gay, bi and trans people in the UK, to create an online encyclopaedia – a wiki website – of people, places, organisations, events, oppression, and liberation.

We want to present in one place the main facts about LGBT life throughout the ages, with links to further information. Our Timeline of LGBT History spans every century from Julius Caesar to the present day, and our clickable maps lead to articles for every county in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and every region in Scotland (plus the Channel Isles and Isle of Man).



Have a look at what we've done so far

Go to www.lgbthistoryuk.org/wiki, and search for a subject that interests you. It works very much like Wikipedia.

Critics needed

Check out what we've said about people, places, groups or events you know about. Have we got something wrong? Do you know some more details? Is the article unclear, out of date or biased? Is the subject just missing altogether? Send us as much as you can of the “who, what, why, where, and when”, with documented sources where possible.

We also need editors

We also need volunteers to help researching and writing up the articles. There's plenty of work to be done, and it can easily be fitted into the odd moment. It's interesting and rewarding work, and it all helps to complete the picture of LGBT life in the UK.

Are we just duplicating Wikipedia?

Yes and no! Wikipedia is an unparalleled source of information about everything under the sun, and has a lot of articles on LGBT subjects. We freely admit that we've drawn on Wikipedia in many of our articles, and we use the same software and a similar approach. But ...

- A subject has to be “notable” to get into Wikipedia; many of the subjects we cover on our wiki (small local groups, pubs that used to be gay, significant but less well-known people) would never be considered notable enough to be allowed on Wikipedia.
- Wikipedia gives very comprehensive general information: we give specific LGBT information. For instance Wikipedia's article on Sir Winston Churchill is very long and detailed. Our article is very much shorter, but includes some LGBT points that are not in Wikipedia: check it out!

It's a big undertaking

Over the centuries, LGBT people lived secret lives, in the shadow of persecution, ostracism, or even execution. We know some of their history, but much will never be discovered. From the mid-20th century, there's an explosion of information as LGBT people began asserting their right to live their lives free of oppression. Social or campaigning groups sprang up all over the country, magazines were published, activists took on the establishment. But much of this history is in danger of being lost.

In the last few years we've already lost some of the key figures from the early days of the struggle. It's all the more important to document our history while some of those who helped to bring it about are still around.



Ross Burgess has contributed many of the articles on this wiki. He's a retired IT consultant, author of books on computing, active in gay groups since 1972, national executive member of CHE, former board trustee of the LGBT Consortium, and webmaster for organisations in Croydon and elsewhere.

Some principles

- Factual articles, from a neutral point of view.
- No copyright restrictions: all content freely reusable.
- Controversial statements referenced to external sources.
- No advertising, no flaming, no outing.
- No individual ownership of articles: editing by consensus.

Finding information

There's a lot of information waiting to be written up: in the pages of *Gay News* and other publications, in museums, libraries and local records around the country, in archives such as LAGNA and Hall-Carpenter. Maybe you could help by digging into the records and documenting what you find there in articles on the wiki.

But there's also a lot of information that never got into the archives – maybe you were in a local LGBT group or used to visit a gay pub, or maybe you've got minutes or newsletters of a long-defunct LGBT organisation in your attic. If so, we'd love to hear from you.

We also need pictures, particularly any that are out of copyright, or photos you've taken yourself: old Pride marches, gay pubs before they were re-branded, ...

The wiki is a collective undertaking by a small group of volunteers. Join us and help build a virtual time-capsule, capturing the experiences of our time – the changing law, the amazing response to health epidemics, the newspapers and magazines that come and go, TV programmes, sports, LGBT business, arts, music and theatre, and of course events, pubs and clubs. Anything you can think of that relates to you as an LGBT person.

Jonathan Harbourne founded this project. He's a graphic designer with a global company and former art director for Chronos Publishing. He's founded Sport London and the London Raiders softball club, and has been marketing director for The London Chorus and a facilitator for HIV intervention workshops.

